

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraphs and tables at page 8, lines 1-7 as follows:

segment of the 5' non-coding region of HCV from nucleotide number 3290 to 3543 **(SEQ ID NO.: 5)** as described in the literature. The HCV sequence data relied on, the primers, and the selected probes are identified in the following Tables **I-III** ~~**I-II and IV**~~ (attached).

Table **I** ~~**II**~~

| Oligo | Forward Primer Sequence   | Bases | MW   | Label |
|-------|---|-------|------|-------|
| HCV   | 5'-GCGTTAGTATGAGTGTCGTGCAGCCT- <b><u>3' (SEQ. ID. NO.: 1)</u></b> | 26    | 8008 | None  |

| Oligo | Forward Primer Sequence                                    | Bases | MW   | Label |
|-------|--|-------|------|-------|
| HCVR2 | 5'-GGTGCACGGTCTACGAGACC-3' <b><u>(SEQ. ID. NO.: 2)</u></b> | 20    | 6124 | None  |

Table **II** ~~**III**~~

|          |  |
|----------|--|
|          |  |
| Probe C1 | 5'-FAM-CCGGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTC-PO <sub>4</sub> <b><u>(SEQ. ID NO.: 3)</u></b> |
| Probe C2 | 5'-TAMRA-GGCCCTCTCGGTATCAC <b><u>(SEQ. ID. NO.: 4)</u></b>                 |

Please amend page 8, lines 10 as follows:

Table **III** ~~**IV**~~